

# ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th March 1881.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmavārtā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comerecolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhini" ... ..	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
5	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	21st February 1881.
7	"Arya Darpan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	4th March 1881.
8	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	671	22nd February 1881.
9	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani" ... ..	Burdwān	296	22nd ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	350	27th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	745	26th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beaulcah, Rājshāhye...	200	23rd ditto.
14	"Medini" ... ..	Midnapore	.....	26th ditto.
15	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	487	25th ditto.
16	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	25th ditto.
17	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	850	21st ditto.
18	"Paridarshak" ... ..	Sylhet	.....	20th ditto.
19	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore	275	18th ditto.
20	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	24th ditto.
21	"Sādhārani" ... ..	Chinsurah	500	27th ditto.
22	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	21st ditto.
23	"Som Prakāsh" ... ..	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	28th ditto.
24	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	4,000	26th ditto.
25	"Srihatta Prakāsh" ... ..	Sylhet	440	21st ditto.
26	"Tripurā Vārtāvaha" ... ..	Commillah	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
27	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	700	25th February to 3rd March 1881.
28	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	300	26th ditto to 4th ditto.
29	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	26th ditto to 5th ditto.
30	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	500	26th ditto to 4th ditto.
31	"Prabhāti" ... ..	Ditto	.....	3rd to 5th March 1881.
32	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
33	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Ditto	365	26th February 1881.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
34	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	500	
35	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	500	24th ditto.
36	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	200	28th ditto.
37	"Uchit Baktā" ... ..	Ditto	.....	26th ditto.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	25th ditto.
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<b>ASSAMESE.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
40	"Assam Vilāsini" ... ..	Sibsagar	.....	



## POLITICAL.

PARIDARSHAK,  
February 20th, 1881.

THE following observations are extracted from an article in the *Paridarshak*, of the 20th February:—A few days ago, Lord Lytton made a long speech in the House of Lords, defending the policy and action of himself and of his colleagues in reference to the Afghan War. Whatever merits the late Viceroy may or may not have possessed, whether or not his conduct of public business was marked by ability, sincerity, and foresight, one thing may be confidently asserted about him, namely, that culture would have enabled him to secure a high position in the world of letters. It is evident that Lord Lytton was not born to be a successful administrator; the gift of a penetrating intellect, able to deal with political problems, was not his. Unfortunately it was his ambition by the glitter of his intellect to be looked upon as a profound statesman. As a writer and orator, Lord Lytton's position is not insignificant; but he is a poor statesman, and it is therefore no wonder that his recent speech in the House of Lords was a complete failure. It is not possible to establish the justice and propriety of an action which is essentially unjust, and Lord Lytton could not do this. The writer points out the necessity of evacuating Candahar—a measure which, if adopted, will restore the confidence of the people of India in the justice of the British nation; and of bringing, the opinion of Lord Lytton notwithstanding, the affairs of India under the direct control of Parliament.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,  
February 21st, 1881.

2. Referring to the same subject, the *Srihatta Prakāsh*, of the 21st February, remarks that Lord Lytton's speech was a complete failure. The Editor condemns the impudence which alone could have led him to argue in favour of retaining Candahar. He, however, failed to produce any impression on the minds of his audience, and only made himself a laughing-stock of the British nation.

SAHACHAR,  
February 21st, 1881.

3. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 21st February:—"Suppose we admit that all you say is true; that you possess boundless foresight, and an insight into diplomacy and strategy which is unsurpassed; that Russia is gradually advancing to the south and covets India; that the will of Peter the Great is not a forged document, and that his successors are thinking day and night of the means whereby they could carry out its directions; that Russia, after establishing its dominion over the whole of Europe and Asia, aspires to make Stamboul the capital of the Empire; that the sea-board is not very distant from Merv; that with a view to effect an entrance into India, Russia had for a long time past sought to bring the late Amir under its influence, and that in the end it succeeded in gaining over Shere Ali to its cause. Now, admitting all this, it may yet be asked whether the course you adopted with a view to check the advance of Russia was one which could be approved of by sound statesmanship. Would it not have been easier to keep Shere Ali under your influence? The question is whether Shere Ali, if you had treated him in a friendly manner, would have gone over to the side of Russia. Now we do not care to answer this question, but appeal to your sense of justice. By offending Shere Ali you did not act wisely; the more friends you had among your neighbours, the better would it be for the safety of your house, which could not be easily attacked by robbers. But it would be otherwise if you made enemies of them; you might then surround your house by a wall, and place guards to guard it, at your own expense, but the fear of invasion would still remain. It was not therefore wise to bring about a rupture of



friendship with Shere Ali. You rejected his friendly overtures and compelled him to seek the protection of Russia. Distracted by fear of Russia as well as of England, and failing in his attempts to secure the confidence of the latter, in his helplessness Shere Ali listened to the proposals of the Russian Government. And if at this time he really entered into a treaty with that power, his action was not open to blame."

4. A perusal of the Russian correspondence found at Cabul, continues the same paper in another articles, has not wrought any change in our views respecting the Afghan question. An impartial estimate of these documents will not be possible until they are subjected to the severe test of the historian. For the present, however, they possess only a limited political significance. The Tories are jubilant over the publication of this correspondence, but a Liberal can well afford to laugh at their exultation. The opportunity has been seized by some to urge on Government the importance of retaining Candahar. But the Ministry are resolved to abandon Candahar, as they have already abandoned Cabul. An extension of the frontier is not necessarily an increase of territorial possessions. It is a huge error to suppose that the retention of Candahar would strengthen the frontiers of India. Sound statesmanship does not approve of an extension of the frontiers to the limits of Russian territory. Of course a contest with Russia is inevitable. But what is the good of advancing to meet her, instead of suffering her to advance? As to the treaty with Shere Ali, it is not altogether impossible to regard it as a forgery. If rumour is to be believed, not a few men in Afghanistan openly laugh at the credulity of the otherwise shrewd British Government. Anybody can draft a treaty. In the present case, if the original treaty could be found in the archives of the Russian Foreign Office, the fact of course would establish its genuineness. As it is, the importance of this document, written from memory by General Roberts' munshis, may be easily estimated. Even if Shere Ali really did enter into treaty relations with Russia, how was he to blame? He found he could not obtain a treaty from the British Government, and was forced to seek an alliance with Russia. That the Russia Embassy met with a warm reception at Cabul, while the British Mission was repulsed, is due to the hatred of the English cherished by the Afghans. The incidents of 1842 have not yet faded from their memory.

SANACHAR,  
February 21st, 1881.

5. The same paper is not sorry to find Lord Ripon extremely cautious in his replies to the addresses which were presented to him by the different Associations in the country. His Excellency has not held out any hopes. This is rather a matter of gratification, and herein lies some hope. Lord Lytton gave the people high hopes and disappointed them equally. The editor concludes by condemning the intensely selfish spirit which pervades the address given by the British Indian Association, which has taken the opportunity of deprecating the proposed Rent Law.

SANACHAR.

6. In two articles on the Russian correspondence found at Cabul, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 21st February, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 3.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
February 21st, 1881.

7 On the same subject the *Bharat Mihir*, of the 22nd February, makes similar observations.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
February 2nd, 1881.

8. The same paper deprecates the intention which is said to exist in some quarters to abolish the Indian Council. If it were carried out, the interests of the people of this country would greatly suffer. There are able and independent men in the Council, whose knowledge of Indian affairs is of inestimable

BHARAT MIHIR.



value to a Secretary of State. The latter indeed, as was seen in the cases of Lords Salisbury and Cranbrook, can manage to disregard the views of the members of his Council, but that is no reason why it should be abolished. It is necessary that some provision should be made for enabling the Council to effectively assert its views.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

PARIDARSHAK,  
February 20th, 1881.

9. The curtain has not yet fallen, remarks the *Paridarshak*, of the 20th February, upon the Atul-Mosley incident.

Mr. Mosley.

The mild censure passed by the Lieutenant-Governor has had the effect of fomenting the vindictive spirit of Mr. Mosley. Sir Ashley, it will be remembered, directed that Mr. Mosley should write to Baboo Atul Chandra, explaining that he had not used the word *budjat* with any intention of insulting the Baboo. We had thought that this would do duty for an apology, and that the dark-skinned Deputy Magistrate was indeed fortunate in having that much justice done to him. But Mr. Mosley was not a man to do what was expected of him, and has simply forwarded to Atul Baboo a copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's decision, with the remark that it was not the Magistrate's intention to use the word *budjat* in an offensive sense. We are curious to see what the Lieutenant-Governor will do at thus finding his orders disregarded.

PARIDARSHAK.

10. The same paper dwells on the importance of cultivating habits of frugality and of the duty of every man to endeavour to lay by something against the

Savings Banks in the Post Offices.

hour of need. As a help to persons of slender means to accomplish this object, the proposal to establish savings banks in connection with the post offices is well worth the consideration of Government.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,  
February 21st, 1881.

11. The *Srihatta Prakash*, of the 21st February, remarks that in spite of everything that has been said to the contrary, it cannot be denied that the continu-

The Press Commissionership.

ance of the office of Press Commissioner, and making it regularly supply news to the editors of newspapers, would prove greatly beneficial.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH.

12. The same paper is delighted to hear that it is proposed shortly to abolish the Chief Commissionership of

The Chief Commissionership of Assam.

Assam. If the proposal were carried out, the result would be a large saving of public expen-

diture, and the deliverance of the people from the sort of justice dispensed in that non-regulation province. The editor fervently prays that the Assam Commissionership be again amalgamated with the Government of Bengal.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH.

13. The same paper advocates the employment of natives in the higher offices under Government. Experience

Appointment of natives to high offices under Government.

has shown that they are quite competent to fill with credit positions of trust and respon-

sibility. It is therefore to be regretted that their services have not been yet utilized to any large extent. The Native Civil Service, which is evidently intended for the benefit of the scions of noble families, can never answer this purpose. The employment of natives in larger numbers in the public service would have this further advantage that it would enable Government to effect a large reduction of expenditure. The services of competent natives might be obtained at salaries lower than those allowed to Europeans.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
February 21st, 1881.

14. We extract the following observations from an article in the

Mr. Mosley.

*Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 21st February, headed "Apology by proxy :"—If our Shastras

are to be believed, in ancient times it was not unusual to have expiatory rites performed by representatives, and we thus find that on many occasions the guilt of a person who had killed a cow, or a Brahman, was transferred



to another, and the moment the transfer was accomplished, the first man underwent a spiritual regeneration. The practice obtains to some extent in the Roman Catholic Church. Among the Mahomedans also it is not unusual to find instances of persons relieved of the responsibility of counting beads by vicarious agency. But never till now did we come across a case in which a person tendered an apology for another's fault. Berhampore has furnished such a case.

It is said that in the time of the Nawabs, if a Begum fell sick, it was her nurse who was subjected to medical treatment, and whose pulse was felt for the purpose of making a diagnosis of the patient's disease. We, however, do not believe this. Again in Europe it is said marriages take place by proxy; but, strange as that may appear, Berhampore furnishes the first case of apology by proxy. The Editor then proceeds to describe how Mr. Mosley, who was required by Sir Ashley Eden to apologize to Baboo Atul Chandra Chatterji for having applied the word *budjati* in reference to certain actions of the Baboo, has had this apology made by the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Tarini Prosad Ghosh, on his behalf. One did not know before, the writer continues, that the Deputy Magistrates, besides being required to attend to the road cess and other administrative work, have also to perform the duty of tendering apologies on behalf of their official superiors. Still this is a small matter, compared to what a native of the country would be prepared to do under the pressure of want. It is for Sir Ashley Eden to consider whether Mr. Mosley has not disobeyed his clear orders.

15. The same paper dwells on the injury that has resulted to native manufacturers by the importation of Manchester piece-goods, and condemns the policy of favouring the British merchants at the expense of the Indian Exchequer. Lord Ripon, following the example of his predecessor, has sacrificed a revenue of 20 lakhs of rupees for this purpose. To recoup the Exchequer for this loss, a fresh tax may be rendered necessary, or at least some work of public utility left unexecuted. What is, however, really amusing in this connection is that, whilst thus sacrificing the interests of the people of India, the rulers are constantly appealing to their Christianity and disinterested love for the natives of the country.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
February 21st, 1881.

16. Referring to a case which recently occurred in the Umballa district, in which a European soldier, who was out on a shooting excursion, shot a native, the same paper remarks:—It is certain the offender will escape punishment. It is really strange to find that in England, where the people are extremely fond of sporting, upon which they expend large sums, such cases of shooting men by mistake are very rare. Now, if offenders of this description were allowed to escape with impunity, the plea of having shot through mistake would most probably be advanced by every European who might be charged with the murder of a native. Europeans look upon the natives of this country in the light of beasts. They, it would seem, consider the shooting of a native as of no more consequence than the shooting of a bird. For some time the plea of a rupture of the spleen was always availed of by Europeans accused of murder. When that was found insufficient, new pleas had to be invented: the plea commonly used now is either the shooting plea, or that of insanity.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

17. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 21st February, remarks that the numerous addresses which have been presented to Lord Ripon clearly show that the loyalty of the people of this country to the British Government is not to be shaken by anything—witness their anxiety on account of His Excellency's recent

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
February 21st, 1881.

Addresses to Lord Ripon.



illness, and their rejoicings at his recovery; and that they have opened their minds to the Viceroy as to a friend. The addresses contain references to several matters upon a proper solution of which depend the weal and woe of the people of India. It behoves Lord Ripon to exercise the utmost care in arriving at a decision on each of the great political questions which have been thus submitted for his consideration. The task before him is of an extremely arduous character, rendered all the more difficult by the circumstance that on almost all of these matters the views entertained by the local officials are directly opposed to those maintained by the people; and the fact that Lord Ripon is new to India. His Excellency should be warned against listening to the counsels of his official advisers, most of whom belong to the Civil Service. Now the interests of the Civil Servants are opposed to those of the people. If the latter succeed in obtaining the rights and privileges to which they are entitled as natives of the country, the interests of the civilians are in jeopardy. Hence it is that these men are constantly found throwing obstacles in the way of native advancement. They do not like to see natives admitted into the Civil Service. They vilify native editors, and are opposed to an income-tax, because it would touch their pockets. They therefore find it to their interest to describe the license tax as a popular impost. They also always seek to deny the existence of a native public opinion. Lord Ripon will find it impossible to do his work successfully if he listens to the advice of these men, and fails to consult the wishes of the people. Not one of the great measures of reform and improvement will be found practicable if public opinion be disregarded by the Viceroy.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
February 21st, 1881.

18. The same paper refers to a case of house robbery which recently took place at Balligunge in the vicinity of the railway station. A large quantity of money

and jewellery was taken away by the robbers. The police have not been yet able to do anything in the matter. The writer dwells on the utter inefficiency of the police in detecting offenders. It is a costly machinery, maintained apparently for the purpose of harassing honest people. Considering that murders and robberies are being committed with impunity in Calcutta and the suburbs, the amount of crime that is perpetrated in the mofussil, and about which the public hears but little, may be easily estimated.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
February 27th, 1881.

19. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 27th February, complains of the language, which is far from respectful, of the form of summons to assessors and jurors, and

suggests that the honorific form *আপনি* should be used in place of *তুমি* wherever that word occurs in these forms.

SADHARANI,  
February 27th, 1881.

20. The *Sádháraní*, of the 27th February, remarks, in reference to the statement made by the *Pioneer*, that owing to the opposition manifested by all the high

officials in India to the proposal to repeal the Vernacular Press Act, Lord Ripon's unwillingness to disturb the present state of things is gradually increasing; that it has greatly disappointed the people. It would be really unfortunate should the Viceroy turn out to be one of those routine men who cannot take any bold step, and are afraid to disturb the existing arrangements. Of late years India has suffered so much from repressive laws and bad administration, that reform has become extremely necessary. The Press Act and the Arms Act are measures which are justly looked upon as humiliating to the people. They constantly, by reason of the invidious distinction which they make between natives and Europeans, remind the former of the fact of their subjection to a foreign rule—an idea which, if brooded over, might produce the gravest consequences. Then, again, it is



indeed a principle dangerous to the interests of the people, that the wishes of hundred millions should be disregarded in favour of the views of a dozen officials. If Lord Ripon really desires to do good to India, and earn imperishable fame, let him consult native public opinion, and, as an earnest of his intention, repeal the Press Act, which hampers the free expression of that opinion.

21. The same paper notices, with gratification, that a monster meeting of the ryots of the Beerbhoom district recently took place at Ulkundá for the purpose of considering the provisions of the draft Rent Bill. The meeting was attended by about 12,000 ryots who came from about 200 villages. The business before the meeting was conducted with order, and many of the local landholders were present.

SADHARANI,  
February 27th, 1881.

22. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 28th February, notices the large number of applicants for entertainment who sought admission into the Census Office in consequence of the announcement that 700 clerks on Rs. 15 a month were required there; and describes their desperate struggles to obtain an entrance. The Editor regards this as a comment on the condition of the middle classes, who are gradually finding increased difficulties in earning a decent livelihood. False ideas of respectability prevent them from taking to agriculture. But even if they took to it, competition would soon ruin the old agriculturists. Trade and manufactures are practically closed to the former. While their income has diminished, their wants have kept increasing.

SOM PRAKASH,  
February 28th, 1881.

23. In an article on the need of effecting a reduction of public expenditure, the same paper points out how it could be successfully done. The Editor then suggests the speedy discontinuance of the Press Commissionership, of the Board of Revenue, of the office of Viceroy and of the Indian Council, and a reduction of the home and army charges. The arguments in support of these proposals have been repeatedly noticed.

SOM PRAKASH.

24. The *Bhárat Mitra*, of the 24th February, does not see that there is any necessity for initiating legislation for the purpose of regulating the administration of the funds of religious institutions. Government, moreover, cannot, consistently with its promise of religious neutrality, interfere in the matter. Isolated cases of maladministration do not certainly furnish grounds for enacting any law of a comprehensive character. If, however, Government is really bent upon legislating in this matter, it should leave all power as regards the administration of the funds of a religious institution to a committee of members selected from among those who might have any concern with it.

BHARAT MITRA,  
February 24th, 1881.

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